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EDITORIAL NOTES

DECEMBER—THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR.

This is the last number of the thirteenth volume of your JOURNAL, and in spite of the supposedly unluckiness of the "13" part of it, it has been a very good year. Instead of a decrease in advertising returns, as was expected, we have actually had an increase. While there was no meeting of the State Society, and thus some forty or more papers, which usually come in for publication, did not arrive, there was an ample supply of contributions and of a quality rather above the average. Some notable articles have appeared during the past year. The meeting of the American Medical Association and of the Pan-American Medical Congress brought many distinguished physicians to San Francisco and of course to other parts of the state as well. To say that the meeting of the A. M. A. was a great success is to state what our members know quite well, for so many of them came, saw, heard and were profited. There never was a time when our members should stand more closely together; when the solidity and stability of the organization was of such great importance and necessity. Suits for alleged malpractice have greatly increased in number and no physician seems to be safe from such attacks. It is a condition hard to explain, but there seems to be a regular fever of desire to "sue the doctor"; most of the time of the Secretary and half of the income of the Society, are taken up with this work alone. To be sure, we win the suits—during 1915 we lost but one, and

in that case the verdict was a sympathetic one and for but \$500—but it requires an immense amount of work and time to prepare the cases and try them. A very large number never come to trial, but we have to be ready for them, just the same. This is no time for the airing of personal differences; let them go and become forgotten. And above all, guard well your tongue against idle criticism of another physician's work or treatment. Without the State Society organization behind them, with its legal department watching their interests, the physicians of this state would have been in a sorry plight during the past year; it would have cost the individual physicians who have been threatened or actually sued, anywhere from fifty to sixty thousand dollars to care for their own interests. And with these few words of summary, may the season's greetings go to each and every one; it has been a good year in many ways—let us see to it that we make the next one better—and carry through it that one thought: Guard well your tongue from criticism.

BUSINESS!!

Dues are payable January 1st. That is an important matter for you to remember, for the work of the Society is growing in magnitude so fast that business principles must be followed. Do not make any more trouble for the secretary of your county society than you can help—therefore, pay your dues promptly. All memberships terminate December 31st, but in order to give old members a chance to retain their membership, they are allowed 60 days in which to be reported to this office, and the assessment paid. That is, to March 1st. Any old member not reported and paid for before March 1st, is recorded as dropped from the first day of the year and is put back as a *new member* from the date when, and if, he is again reported. *He loses all right to medical defense during the time between January 1st and the date when he is reported, after March 1st.* Suits for damages for alleged malpractice are increasing so rapidly that no member can afford to be without the protection of the State Society for a single day. *Be sure to pay your dues early and avoid trouble.*

NEVADA STATE MEETING.

The meeting of the Nevada State Medical Society, held October 13, 14, and 15, was well attended and an excellent program was offered. We note the names of a number of California physicians on the program. Harry Alderson, on "The Cure of Syphilis"; A. B. McKee, on "Operations in the Eye Clinic of Stanford"; George Rothganger, on "The Ideal Operation for Aneurysm"; John Zeig, on "Serums and Vaccines"; H. D'Arcy Power, on "Articular Gout"; W. F. Schaller, on "Brain Tumors"; J. B. Harris (Sacramento), on "Treatment of Traumatic Epilepsy"; T. C. McCleave (Berkeley), on "The Relation of Milk to Public Health"; Leonard W. Ely, on "Joint Tuberculosis" and Martin Molony on "Prostatectomy."

opportunities for clinical study are excellent. Especially is this true of rheumatism and of rickets. In reference to the former of these the frequency of subcutaneous nodules impressed Dr. Colliver, for apparently these nodules are rarely seen in America. Other points noted are the removal of the tonsils by enucleation and the value of the clinical demonstrations in the Children's section of the Royal Society of Medicine. The summing up, however, is rather cruel—"on the whole English physicians are not so accurate in their diagnosis and have a tendency to use more drugs than in other places."

Of Paris the record is confined to a remark on the low morality of the view which is taken of such questions as illegitimacy, prostitution, and so on, and the fact that a girl who has left her situation to give birth to a child may be later on restored to her former position is evidently regarded as a shocking occurrence. This may be, but its record does not give us much information relative to the study of the diseases of children in Paris. Possibly the war has temporarily disorganized this study, and has left the superior morality of the States all the more shining by contrast.

German and Austrian Clinics.

In the German cities great emphasis is placed on hygiene and prophylaxis. At Pfundler's clinic at Munich doctors from many countries were seen, and indeed the assistants were more numerous than the patients. The work is characterized by great thoroughness. The children are well provided with clothing and shoes, if necessary at the cost of the Government, and at the schools there is an interruption of the work for two hours in the middle of the day for food and rest and recreation, a condition which apparently does not obtain in America. In the workman's museum great attention is paid to the illustration of methods which relate to the preservation of health and to the rearing of healthy children. Again, in the direction of disease prevention the streets are kept scrupulously clean, and the malignant fly is thus deprived of his opportunity. One of the results is seen in the absence of typhoid fever, of which, it is said, only a single case has been known in Munich during several years. This occurred in the house of a dairyman, who as a reward was sent to prison for nine years.

Professor Pirquet's Kinderklinik at Vienna is pronounced to be one of the best equipped and best organized children's hospitals in Europe. Clinical assistants must understand German and must undertake to stay for at least six months. Infectious diseases, such as diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, and gonorrhoea, are treated in beds separated by glass partitions. Special attention is paid to tuberculosis, and both in winter and summer children are kept on the roof of the hospital, and in the warm weather the only clothing permitted to the child is a hat! The Pirquet test is used as a routine measure, as is also examination by the X-rays. Tuberculin treatment is given twice a week, and impressive results are seen in tuberculous peritonitis and adenitis, as well as in phthisis pulmonalis. Again, illustrations of hereditary syphilis are seen in great numbers. Good results are recorded of the effects of splenectomy in icterus haemorrhagica, and in one case the red blood cells increased within three weeks after operation from 800,000 to over 4,000,000. One of the physicians treats pulmonary tuberculosis by suggestion and claims excellent results.

Hindrances of the War.

At Berlin (visited two months after the commencement of the war) the most impressive thing is pronounced to be the infant feeding of Finkelstein and Meyer. Here and in the other clinics research and teaching work were in abeyance, as the assistants were engaged in work for the army. The hospitals are to a large extent given over to

wounded soldiers, and only the most urgent cases of disease in children receive attention. Work has been in progress in such directions as the immunity of the newly born, the nature of diphtheria immunity, tuberculous disease of the intestine, the treatment of tuberculous meningitis, the cutaneous reaction of diphtheria, and research work with the electrocardiograph, but all these and others are in the meantime suspended. Professor Pirquet, too, has had to abandon much of his special work and is devoting himself to the wounded soldiers who are received into his hospital. Dr. Colliver expresses the opinion that even if the war stopped today it would take Germany and Austria more than a generation to regain the position they have so long held in the scientific world. He believes, also, that one of the effects of the war will be a tendency to shift this scientific and research spirit to America. Certainly his record of the confusions and hindrances which the war has created indicates how far-reaching and disastrous will be the effects both on scientific progress and on the practical methods by means of which the health of the rising generation are to be promoted. Science, it is said, knows no frontiers, but the international bitterness which will long survive the cessation of hostilities will seriously interfere with the freedom of communication upon which the diffusion of knowledge is largely dependent.

In a summary of his observations Dr. Colliver concludes as follows: Liverpool for orthopaedics; London for malnutrition, rheumatism, chorea, endocarditis, and rheumatic nodules; Munich for hygiene, prophylaxis, health regulations and food stations, and preservation of the normal; Vienna for tuberculosis, syphilis, X-rays, pathology, and research work; Berlin for infant feeding; and America for practicability and some of the best of all. It is sometimes said that travel in foreign countries has the advantage of making one more content with the state of affairs at home. The fine feathers of far-away birds are not always so enchanting when seen close at hand, and no one will grudge Dr. Colliver his conclusion that there are abundant good things in his own country. No doubt he will wish to make them still better, and in this ambition we cordially wish him every success.

NEW MEMBERS.

Bolton, M. Blanche—San Pedro.
Metzger, J. A.—Los Angeles.
Patrick, Marcia Alice—Los Angeles.
Bonoff, Karl M.—Los Angeles.
Burton, James—Pasadena, Cal.
Brown, Page—Los Angeles.
Carter, Joseph J.—Los Angeles.
Stadelman, Eugene—Long Beach.
Teel, A. W.—Glendale.
Dieterle, Karl Lionel—Los Angeles.
Klutho, John C.—Los Angeles.
Remaly, Chas. E.—Los Angeles.
Evans, Joseph G.—Los Angeles.
Bullock, Annie Sophia—Alhambra.
Bay, Samuel G.—Los Angeles.
Davidoff, Olga M.—San Francisco.
McLeish, Alex. H.—Napa.
Downing, S. R.—Visalia.
Waller, Julian L.—San Francisco.

DEATHS.

Caven, C. L.—San Diego.
Russ, Raymond—Hillsborough, Cal.
Leisenring, Peter S.—San Diego.
Le Fevre, Joseph P.—Los Angeles.
Knox, Myra—Oakland.
Taylor, Robert F.—Napa.
Mulligan, A. P.—Salida, Cal.
Richards, J. F.—San Francisco.
Hasse, Herman E.—Santa Monica.